My (42F) husband (42M) has informed me he intends to go on a "gaycation" with his BIL (35M) in Ibiza. How do I handle this?

I am NOT OOP, OOP is u/ThrowRA_Canning1900

Originally posted to r/relationship_advice

My (42F) husband (42M) has informed me he intends to go on a "gaycation" with his BIL (35M) in Ibiza. How do I handle this?

Editor's note: added paragraph breaks for readability

Trigger Warnings:

Original Post: **November 27, 2024**

Hi there, I really wish I didn't have to make this post but...here goes.

So me and my husband have been happily married for about 16 years give or take. We both have stable careers, good family life and are fairly fortunate despite the cost of living racking the UK right now. We have two boys (15 and 10) and up until this Sunday, thought we had it pretty good. We argue sometimes of course but never gotten too bad and we have a pretty decent sex life with some exploration but I won't get into that.

Long and short is, on Sunday, just after I dropped our boys off at their friends, my husband asked me if we had the house alone and more importantly, do I have a minute. I said yes and he sat me down then got out this printed poster for some sort of orgy and started explaining to me the concept of a 'gaycation'.

How it's where straight men go to somewhere with "sun, sand and booze" and "become gay" for the duration of the trip but that's fine because it doesn't actually count, because "what happens on the gaycation, stays on the gaycation". I was just completely silent and mortified, even moreso when he said he was looking into booking a trip to Ibiza next year with his BIL (his sister's husband) to experience it for himself.

When he finally let me speak I just said, I need him to be clear with me, is he gay? Because if yes, that's "okay" but we need to figure out what happens going forward. I didn't let myself get angry or upset, I was just...stunned. He swore up and down how he's not gay and he's 100% attracted to women and of course still loves me and our boys. So I said well do you think you're bi maybe and he got *very* defensive, saying how I need to drop the accusations and that this is the beauty of the gaycation, it allows straight men to "experience" gayness without actually being gay and how it's like going to an aquarium???

And again he was adamant he doesn't find men's bodies or genitalia exciting at all, but he *needs* to experience this apparently. I said well I'm really not comfortable because even if he was bi, this would be explicitly cheating on me and he got angry and reiterated he's not, because "that's the beauty of the gaycation" etc. I just had enough and left the room.

I ignored him for the rest of the day but we spoke at tea where I again asked him, *why* does he want to do this so bad if he's not gay? He said how he's interested in how gay men's live differ to straight men's and that unfortunately, once the gaycation begins, it's simply impossible for a man to resist and he must "surrender himself mind, body and soul" to the gaycation or "be destroyed". I really cant't put into words how surreal it was, because he was speaking so matter of factly and he again insists this is a thing that straight men do all the time and how he's actually "doing it a bit late". I just said to him if he has any love for me then he can't go ahead with this and if he does, the marriage will be dead. We didn't speak anymore after that.

Since then he's mentioned no more of it but somehow, and this is what scares me a lot too, that decision

genuinely seems to be tearing him up??? He didn't go into work on Monday (and only went in half a day yesterday) because he told them he just felt too ill and he just looks distraught every time I see him. I really don't think he's wholly gay though I can absolutely believe he's bi but I'd rather we talked about that in a healthy way rather than this incredibly weird denialism around going on a sex holiday to Ibiza.

Has anyone known straight guys to do this and come back and just go back to being straight. Like surely that can't be a thing that happens. I'm so out of my depth here and I just don't know how to even initiate the conversation. For the record I also haven't mentioned it to his sister yet, I don't know how I'd even break it to her. Thanks for any help, I just don't even want to think so being able to get this out there has helped even just a little bit.

Edit: Wow this blew up! This has been incredibly sobering and I think I've now confirmed what I already knew to be the case. The marriage is dead, one way or another. In a way I was in denial myself about that. I have contacted my SIL and she initially screamed at me, calling me a liar and even insinuated I was trying to steal her husband. She rang me back shortly after, apologised and admitted she was in deep, deep shock.

I have asked my parents to look after the boys and we're going to meet tomorrow to discuss this deeper. I have also texted my husband and told him he will need to make alternative accommodation arrangements but he will not be sleeping here tonight and a bag will be waiting for him. Not sure if the mods want to lock the post or not but I think I've got my answers. Thank you for all the kind words, especially Champion Flight who really gave me the good dose of reality I needed.

P.S. I see a lot of people asking about the aquarium and at risk of doxxing myself - there is a pretty famous aquarium in the UK called "The Deep". At the very end you walk through a tunnel that goes underneath the main fish tank so it's quite 'immersive' I suppose.

My husband explained the aquarium thing in that it's a bit like that. You go there and you "observe" the fishes, you even get a bit up close but you never actually enter the water (get emotionally invested) or "become a fish "(gay) so it doesn't really count. It was a very bizarre analogy and I pointed out it still makes no sense and he just got more in a huff and how I just "don't get it". And frankly I still don't.

Relevant Comments

Commenter 1: Your husband isn't proposing a "gaycation" - he's proposing cheating on you with men while using magical thinking to pretend it doesn't count. The fact that he's planning this with his sister's husband makes it even more disturbing. His bizarre explanation about "surrendering mind, body and soul" isn't straight man curiosity - it's someone desperately trying to justify exploring his sexuality while keeping his heterosexual marriage. His depression about not being able to go isn't about missing a vacation - it's about being forced to confront his sexuality without his convenient "what happens in Ibiza stays in Ibiza" excuse.

His meltdown over not going shows how desperately he wants to avoid facing this reality.

> **OOP:** I read over this multiple times and I guess the worst part is I know you're completely right.

OOP should consider about the divorce

> **OOP:** I wanted to avoid the divorce option but...I guess it's the only option isn't it?

Commenter 2: So this is just a thought, but I'm wondering if he was really planning on doing the gaycation or if that was just a cover to try to get you to agree to it. What if the real plan was to get with women while he's down there?

> **OOP:** That...I hadn't really thought of that tbh. And now the thought terrifies me. From the way he was

> talking about men, the fact he had a poster for a gay orgy...I mean its one hell of a bluff surely?

Commenter 3: Tell him you are gunna have a straightcation while he's gone and you are going to surrender mind body and soul to other men. Honest to God if my husband proposed this to me, I'd use his time away to pack up, move out and have divorce papers waiting for him.

Update: **November 28, 2024**

Retrieved by Unddit

So when I last posted, I'd contacted my husband to tell him he wouldn't be staying at home tonight and a bag would be waiting for him. As you can imagine we argued. Quite badly. I won't go into the specific details but no I'm 100% on board with the fact at a minimum he's bi, might even be gay altogether. We've had arguments in the past but I've genuinely never seen him have such a childish tantrum before, screaming about how I just don't understand "the gaycation" (absolutely despise that phrase now) and insinuating I'm actually homophobic because I refuse to allow him to participate in this "cultural exchange with the gay community".

A lot of you said to ask him if it'd be acceptable if the roles were in reverse and I did say would it be acceptable if I went and slept with other guys during that week? Like fucking clockwork, he was very angry and offended, saying it's completely different because a gaycation means nothing and what happens on the gaycation, stays on the gaycation etc. so doesn't actually count. Whereas I'd just be "straight up cheating".

Well I turned it around on him: "No but you see what happens in Manchester stays in Manchester. It doesn't mean anything, it doesn't count. It's like bird watching." And...I think it got through to him? He went all quiet and then started crying, admitting the thought of me sleeping with another man is destroying his heart but "relationships need sacrifices" so agreed - while in tears - that when he goes on the gaycation, I'll get one week in Manchester to do whatever I want. He doesn't want me to, but that's "fair in a twisted way" he supposed.

I told him to get out of my house. Thankfully he left without a fight.

I know it's incredibly petty but I also drained the joint bank account (legal in the UK) so he couldn't try to use it against me. About an hour later, I got rang up by his mum (my MIL) who just screamed and screamed at me about being a cheating wh*re, how I was horrible, what about the kids, etc..

When I finally got my composure back I just said ask your son about the "gaycation". Obviously at first she got angry but I said no just ask him about "the gaycation", he'll explain but she called me a fucking joke and hung up. Later on, getting into the evening, got _another_ phone call from her in floods of tears, she was very apologetic and I told her she doesn't need to be the one to apologise. She was so upset she put FIL on the phone who while he sounded "calm", I could just sort of tell he was on the warpath.

Again, very apologetic and said he overheard that phrase, asked my husband and husband initially said no its nothing before explaining how it's "a modern thing men to do" etc. and gave them the same spiel about how what happens on the gaycation, men cannot resist the gaycation, how a man must surrender to the gaycation etc.

FIL just said they told him to leave or they'd call the police, don't care where he goes but he wasn't staying there. Husband tried to call me while I was on the phone but I just ignored it and FIL just said he was so sorry for me and they have my corner in this so...that's one thing. Told them to be there for their daughter because it sounds like BIL is involved (husband didn't tell them that...) and FIL just said he had to go because he was so, so, so angry.

Got a text from my husband after the phone call which was all weirdly rambly, saying about how I'd abused the gaycation to "destroy his marriage and destroy his life" and again insinuated I (and his parents) was

homophobic for doing such a thing. Told him we'll talk when he grows up and blocked his number. I took a day off work myself to have the locks changed this morning so that's a £500 gone but whatever, at least I know he won't be coming back. I'm going to look into how to proceed with a divorce and then we'll move from there.

Oh of course, there's also the brother in law. So I haven't yet _met_ with SIL (she was in such a state and has taken this far, far worse than I have for reasons that'll be clear soon), we're going to maybe try tomorrow but we did talk over the phone and I 'eavesdropped' on the conversation with her husband where she put her phone on speaker and I went on mute. Her husband got home earlier (she made him come home, told him there was an emergency) and just said to him, can you please explain what a gaycation is? She told me afterwards she was praying he'd look confused or just be like what? or anything like that.

But instead he just sat her down and explained that a gaycation is a new thing where straight men go to gay hotspots and participate in gay sex acts but it doesn't count because there's no "investment" and because what happens on the gaycation stays on the gaycation. He said it's like writing down angry thoughts and putting them in a drawer. You "never have to see them again".

Whole time, SIL is in tears as he just calmly bats off the same points my husband did about how it doesn't count and he even did the whole it's impossible to resist, you must surrender or be destroyed shit. I seriously think they must be speaking to a dominatrix or something (are there even male doms?) because surely neither of them are that into this to actually make that up on their own? I really don't want to go into what was...discussed, for her sake but it did become very apparent to me that the BIL is into sissy hypno porn and at times conflated that with the concept of a 'gaycation'.

There was this utterly surreal moment where SIL is just trying to wrap her ahead around this while also in floods of tears and he explains, so genuinely, so matter of factly, that for "most men", the gaycation is either a one-time or annual thing but some men "go on the gaycation for years" and others simply "never return" because they use hypnosis and mind control to be "totally feminised" into a state of permanent "pseudo-gayness". She said in disbelief surely if you're taking it up the arse willingly because you want to, that makes you gay, and he said no, because that's the beauty of the gaycation - you can do all this gay stuff but you don't interact with the "wider gay life-experience". She asked him if the sissy stuff is what he wanted and he said, "not on a long-term basis" and was adamant this is something all straight men do but she wouldn't get it because she's a woman.

Then there were more insinuations of homophobia. Well that marriage is dead too I suppose. The whole ordeal ended when she said to him he has a choice to make and he said, no, he doesn't need to make this choice because the beauty of the gaycation is that it allows him to keep his marriage because it doesn't count. She said that's not the choice, the choice is whether he's leaving the house that night or she is. Only good thing he did was leave. Me and SIL spoke about it after that and I'm just...still utterly stunned. I understand she's gone to her parents for the support What exactly did we do to have our lives destroyed in such an abrupt, bizarre embarrassing way?

Per some advice I'm going to look at devices and bank statements to see if I can find any definitive proof of cheating. After that...I suppose figure out how I tell the boys why their father won't be coming home.

Edit: Spoke to other SIL (My husband's family is older sister, him, younger sister/original SIL) and gave her a...skimmed down version of it. She asked her husband and thankfully he was deeply confused but then mentioned about 2 years ago at a birthday party, he was approached by my husband and BIL about signing up to some "online bootcamp" around BDSM crossdressing. He assumed they were taking the piss out of him so told them to fuck off and never really thought of it again. The fact that this has been going on for that long is making me want to throw up.

PS, for the poster who said about divorce options, I'm actually going to look into adultery because plain and simple that's what this is.

Top Comments

Commenter 1: Your husband and BIL are deep in a shared delusion that's destroyed two families. Their identical talking points about "surrender" and "destruction" prove this was coordinated. They're not just planning to cheat - they're already involved in some online community that's warped their thinking. The fact that they both instantly launched into the same script about "gaycations" shows this isn't spontaneous. You made the right call draining the account and changing the locks. Their attempts to flip this into accusations of homophobia show how desperately they're trying to avoid responsibility.

The identical language, the bizarre aquarium and bird-watching analogies, the talk of "surrender or be destroyed" - they're in some online echo chamber that's completely divorced from reality. When your husband agreed to let you have a "Manchester week" while crying, he revealed the whole lie. He knows exactly what this is - cheating - he just wants permission to do it while denying you the same.

The talk about hypnosis and "permanent feminization" reveals just how far this goes. Get a lawyer, protect your assets, and document everything - this will get worse before it gets better.

Focus on protecting yourself and your children, because they're too far gone in their shared fantasy to see the destruction they're causing.

What a pathetic hill for two men to die on. They destroyed their marriages, traumatized their families, and alienated their parents - all while insisting none of it "counts" because they made up special rules about it.

They want to cheat without consequences, and they've found an online community that validates this fantasy.

DO NOT COMMENT IN LINKED POSTS OR MESSAGE OOPs – BoRU Rule #7

THIS IS A REPOST SUB - I AM NOT OOP

18K · 3.3K

AutoModerator MOD • 1y ago

Moderator Announcement Read More »

1

4 more replies

ayymahi • 1y ago

What pushed me off the cliff was when BIL said “he doesn’t need to make a choice because the beauty of the gaycation is that it allows him to keep his marriage because it doesn’t count” 🥸

He’s def been kissing ops husband at the family get togethers.

16K

aventine_ • 1y ago

That's my thought as well. There's no reason for both of them to share this niche fetish if they're not sharing with each other. And who knows how they are sharing.

Good thing for OOP they are dumb enough to prepare a speech on how they are going to cheat on their wives instead of just going to Ibiza.

7.3K

Pame_in_reddit • 1y ago

To me it sounded cultish. Beyond the divorce (which I support), I think OOP should look some family therapy, because the father of her children went nuts.

3.5K

78 more replies

38 more replies

Mmm_lemon_cakes • 1y ago

What I find the craziest is that they both INSIST that gaycations are something all straight men do.

“Surrender or be destroyed” - by what? Gay space lasers that target men who don’t surrender sufficiently to the allure of the gaycation? Who controls the lasers? (I assume Elton John)

1K

22 more replies

LeSilverKitsune • 1y ago

My immediate thoughts I found out the BIL was in was that they were absolutely cheating together. And this was some way of them figuring out how to take a vacation together as lovers.

1.4K

TEG_SAR • 1y ago

An ordinary bro trip was a bridge too far for them.

941

25 more replies

17 more replies

101 more replies

TwoCockyforBukkake • 1y ago

I had to stop at "cultural exchange with the gay community" because I was laughing too hard.

18K

therobshow • 1y ago

Thank God other people found this to be funny because I was cracking up the whole fucking time. The aquarium reference makes sense too! OOPs husband likes fish dicks, he's a gay fish

7.3K

ToiletGhost • 1y ago

If these posts made you laugh, you’re homophobic >:/

I was in tears throughout. The catchphrases are what did me in. And the poster.

Direct quotes for future flair (Mods!) 😫

- What happens on the gaycation, stays on the gaycation
- It's like going to an aquarium
- That's the beauty of the gaycation
- Unfortunately, once the gaycation begins, it's simply impossible for a man to resist
- Surrender yourself mind, body and soul to the gaycation or be destroyed
- A cultural exchange with the gay community
- It's a modern thing that straight men do
- Men cannot resist the gaycation
- A man must surrender to the gaycation
- Don't confuse gaycations with sissy hypno porn
- All straight men do sissy hypno stuff [Or did OOP mean gaycations? Now I'm conflating the two] but you wouldn't get it because you're a woman
- Some men simply never return from the gaycation

1.1K

38 more replies

mybloodyballentine • 1y ago

This whole thing reeks of South Park. In my mind, the husband sounded like Randy.

2K

35 more replies

140 more replies

misselphaba • 1y ago

I need "surrender to the gaycation" as flair

2.3K

milehighphillygirl • 1y ago

"surrender to the gaycation or be destroyed" would be the best flair

1.4K

30 more replies

33 more replies

383 more replies

twistedspin • 1y ago

The commenter that said

> They're not just planning to cheat - they're already involved in some online community that's warped their thinking

was probably right and now I want to find the gaycation forum, because I do love an internet train wreck and that sounds so insane. The way BIL was talking about it, how sometimes people can stay gaycationing for years but it's never actually gay because of course it's not, that's some amazing crazy right there. They want to have sex with men *so much* they've suspended all ties to reality to achieve that.

6.7K

FullMoonTwist • 1y ago

There's a weird phenomenon sometimes where people will just...

not, recognize their fetish is a fetish, and will fully believe its objective reality instead. (Looking at the people who get Really Weird about dominance/service dynamics in their relationships and decide that is how All Men and Every Woman secretly yearn to behave with each other.)

It kinda reads like that. They're into sissyfication, they're into being submissive and/or bdsm, they're into sexual hypnosis

But instead of labeling that they just. "Aw, well, isn't every guy like that? Right fellas? Every man wants to occasionally be brainwashed by a big, muscley manly man and be taken advantage of, it's not a big deal."

4.9K

sCREAMINGcAMMELcASE • 1y ago

I feel like the sexual hypnosis is just another out.

“I hypnotise you to be gay when I click my fingers. You will want to suck my cock and all that jazz”

Then the internal logic is “yeah, I sucked cock and liked it, but that was because I was under hypnosis on a gaycation. Double defence.”

3K

55 more replies

46 more replies

159 more replies

ninjinlia • 1y ago

Seems like it's not the first time a woman is asking reddit about her partner wanting a gaycation ... I don't even know what to say... https://www.reddit.com/r/relationship_advice/s/Y82QWemlrw

920

30 more replies

morto00x • 1y ago

I'm sorry. I know OOP is having a really hard time with this situation. But I chuckled every time I read the word gaycation. Especially after reading "men cannot resist the gaycation"

word gaycation. Especially after reading "men cannot resist the gaycation".

7.1K

[deleted] • 1y ago

Comment removed by moderator

3.5K

81 more replies

withgreatpower • 1y ago

I mean, I remember the day in 7th grade when all the boys went to the gym and were taught about what to do when the gaycation finally comes for us. I've lived in...I don't want to say fear, but a certain amount of anxiety knowing that someday it will come for me, as it does for all men. I'm pretty straight, so it may include some discomfort, but I'm ready to do my part. I'll have to. I cannot resist.

753

sarcosaurus • 1y ago

More men have been lost to gaycation than to war and famine combined

623

8 more replies

10 more replies

Shushh • 1y ago

I was chuckling along and then absolutely lost it when I hit '"surrender himself mind, body and soul" to the gaycation or "be destroyed"'. Oh lordy

1K

35 more replies

121 more replies

anonareyouokay • 1y ago

> what happens on the gaycation, stays on the gaycation

Did he really regurgitate the line that gay guys use to seduce straight men on his wife?!

2.3K

36 more replies

h-ugo • 1y ago

What the fuck did I just read?

1.5K

Ihavegotmanyproblems • 1y ago

Surrender to the gaycation!!!!

1.1K

5 more replies

21 more replies